
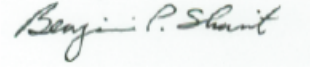


| Comments | Response |
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| <div data-bbox="327 99 676 228">  </div> <p data-bbox="79 253 258 277">February 27, 2012</p> <p data-bbox="79 305 541 451"> Mr. Don Jardine, Chair Members of the Board of Directors Mr. Harold Singer, Executive Officer Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board 2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 </p> <p data-bbox="79 480 852 529"> Re: Letter of Support USDA Forest Service - LTBMU South Shore Fuels Reduction Project </p> <p data-bbox="79 557 768 581">Dear Chairman Jardine, Board Members, and Executive Officer Singer:</p> <p data-bbox="79 609 932 730"> On behalf of the Multi Agency Coordinating Group (Fire MAC) of the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, I am writing to express strong support for the USFS/LTBMU South Shore Fuels Reduction Project. We understand Lahontan RWQCB staff is completing its analysis and staff report in preparation for an April Lahontan Board meeting to consider project and permit approval. </p> <p data-bbox="79 758 932 831"> We believe the the USDA Forest Service/LTBMU has been diligent and thorough in its efforts to present a project deserving of Lahontan's support and approval without further delay. Please consider the following: </p> <ul data-bbox="79 859 932 1013" style="list-style-type: none"> • All vegetation and fuels treatments will restore the ecosystem and improve water quality within watersheds in the project area. • All road maintenance, reconstruction and restoration work as it is described in the FS analysis will also improve water quality. • The South Shore Final EIS describes adequate mitigation measures (Resource Protection Measures) and monitoring to protect water quality. <p data-bbox="79 1040 932 1138"> In preparing its staff report, and in consideration of its actions related to this vital project, we respectfully request the Lahontan RWQCB review and incorporate into its decision, the intent of following findings from the <i>Emergency California-Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Commission Report</i>: </p> <p data-bbox="79 1166 476 1214"> Category 1. Environmental Protection Findings: 1, 2, 3 </p> <p data-bbox="79 1218 436 1266"> Category 2. Issues of Governance Findings: 5, 7, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17 </p> <p data-bbox="79 1269 525 1318"> Category 4. Forest and Fuels Management Findings: 21, 22, 24 </p> | <div data-bbox="1079 256 2028 427"> <p>TFFT-R1: The Water Board as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) must determine adequacy of mitigation measures to protect water quality and specify monitoring to verify effectiveness. In adopting waste discharge requirements (WDR), the Water Board requires implementation of the mitigation measures.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1079 578 2028 1479"> <p>TFFT-R2: The findings of the Fire Commission Report (FCR) have been considered during the development of the WDR, and specific WDR findings discuss these matters. Some of the FCR Findings listed in your letter are not appropriate for the WDR because the Water Board does not have specific authorities related to them. Below are specific responses to each finding in your letter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WDR Finding 5 addresses FCR Finding 1 • WDR Findings 4 and 11 addresses FCR Finding 2 • WDR Finding 17D and WDR Attachment H Sections III and VII address FCR Finding 3 • WDR Findings 15(d), 17, and 19 address FCR Finding 5 • FCR Findings 11 and 12 are not applicable to the WDR because the Water Board believes the LTBMU can meet its project goals while conducting its project under the WDR and implement the BMPs as specified in the WDR. • FCR Findings 15 and 16 are not appropriate for the WDR since the Water Board does not have authority to require fire safety or defensible space programs. • FCR Finding 17 is not appropriate for the WDR since the Water Board does not have authority to regulate the type of building material. • WDR Findings 17 and 19 address FCR Finding 21. • FCR Finding 22 is not appropriate for the WDR since the Water Board does not have regulatory authority to prioritize fuel reduction projects. • FCR Finding 24 is not appropriate for the WDR since the Water Board does not have authority to specify fuel treatment areas. </div> |

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| <p data-bbox="661 94 924 118">Lahontan RWQCB, page 2</p> <p data-bbox="71 142 924 191">The South Shore Project is consistent with the <i>Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Fire Prevention Strategy 10-Year Plan</i>.</p> <p data-bbox="71 215 924 297">Please support the approval and permits for the USDA Forest Service LTBMU South Shore Fuels Reduction Project <u>so that the project can proceed this year</u>. It is essential for the protection of life, property and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin.</p> <p data-bbox="71 321 168 345">Sincerely,</p> <div data-bbox="71 345 378 410"></div> <p data-bbox="71 410 571 516">Benjamin P. Sharit Chief, Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District Chair, Multi Agency Coordination Group (Fire MAC) Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team</p> <p data-bbox="71 565 625 589">cc: Members, Fire MAC and Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team</p> | |